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Lake County State's Attorney Michael Waller announces that Lake County Coroner Richard Keller has plead guilty to two felony charges: Obstructing Justice and Unlawful Delivery of a Controlled Substance. After entering his pleas of guilty, Dr. Richard Keller resigned as Lake County Coroner effective immediately.

In February 2009, the State's Attorneys Office initiated an investigation of Lake County Coroner Richard Keller and his concurrent role as the Director of Green Dragonfly Methadone Clinic in Waukegan.

An extensive Grand Jury investigation was conducted by the State's Attorneys Office with the assistance of the Federal Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (DPR), and the Department of Human Services, Division of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse (DHS).

The investigation determined that the Green Dragonfly Methadone Clinic was not in compliance with State and Federal regulations and as a result the clinic ceased operations in September 2009.

In May of 2009 a series of Grand Jury subpoenas were issued for the records of Green Dragonfly Clinic. In September of 2009 a search warrant was issued for all records of the clinic. Records and documents were seized, pursuant to that search warrant, which Dr. Keller had previously failed to turn over pursuant to Grand Jury subpoena. The failure by Dr. Keller to turn over those records is the basis of the charge of Obstruction of Justice to which he has plead guilty.

In the course of the Investigation State's Attorney investigators, working in conjunction with Federal and State investigators, reviewed controlled substance prescriptions issued by Dr. Keller to patients and employees of the methadone clinic. Numerous interviews were conducted of the persons receiving the prescriptions from Dr. Keller.

Medical experts were consulted to review Dr. Keller's issuance of those prescriptions. The experts concluded that Dr. Keller failed to perform required physical examinations and mandatory testing before issuing the prescriptions. His actions fell below the reasonable standard of medical care for prescribing controlled substances and is the basis for the charge of Unlawful Delivery of a Controlled Substance to which he has plead guilty.

After pleading guilty and resigning as Coroner, he was placed on 24 months felony probation and ordered to surrender his medical license and his DEA license to prescribe narcotic drugs.

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